

101/2012 - 2 July 2012

May 2012

Euro area unemployment rate at 11.1%

EU27 at 10.3%

The **euro area**¹ (EA17) seasonally-adjusted² unemployment rate³ was 11.1% in May 2012, compared with 11.0% in April⁴. It was 10.0% in May 2011. The **EU27**¹ unemployment rate was 10.3% in May 2012, compared with 10.2% in April⁴. It was 9.5% in May 2011.

Eurostat estimates that 24.868 million men and women in the **EU27**, of whom 17.561 million were in the **euro area**, were unemployed in May 2012. Compared with April 2012, the number of persons unemployed increased by 151 000 in the **EU27** and by 88 000 in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2011, unemployment rose by 1.952 million in the **EU27** and by 1.820 million in the **euro area**.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

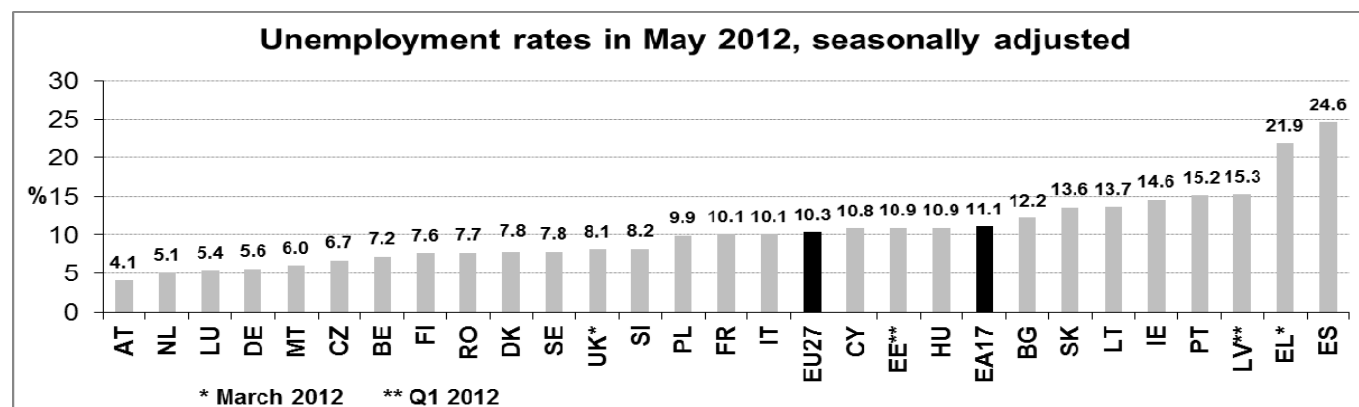
Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (4.1%), the **Netherlands** (5.1%), **Luxembourg** (5.4%) and **Germany** (5.6%), and the highest in **Spain** (24.6%) and **Greece** (21.9% in March 2012).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in eight Member States, increased in eighteen, and remained stable in **Hungary**. The largest falls were observed in **Estonia** (13.6% to 10.9% between the first quarters of 2011 and 2012), **Lithuania** (15.7% to 13.7%) and **Latvia** (17.1% to 15.3% between the first quarters of 2011 and 2012). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (15.7% to 21.9% between March 2011 and March 2012), **Spain** (20.9% to 24.6%) and **Cyprus** (7.5% to 10.8%).

Between May 2011 and May 2012, the unemployment rate for males increased from 9.8% to 10.9% in the **euro area** and from 9.5% to 10.3% in the **EU27**. The female unemployment rate rose from 10.3% to 11.3% in the **euro area** and from 9.6% to 10.4% in the **EU27**.

In May 2012, 5.517 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the **EU27**, of whom 3.412 million were in the **euro area**. Compared with May 2011, youth unemployment rose by 282 000 in the **EU27** and by 254 000 in the **euro area**. In May 2012, the youth unemployment rate was 22.7% in the **EU27** and 22.6% in the **euro area**. In May 2011 it was 21.0% and 20.5% respectively. The lowest rates were observed in **Germany** (7.9%), **Austria** (8.3%) and the **Netherlands** (9.2%), and the highest in **Greece** (52.1% in March 2012) and **Spain** (52.1%).

In May 2012, the unemployment rate was 8.2% in the **USA** and it was 4.4% in **Japan**.



1. The euro area (EA17) consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.
The EU27 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).
2. Non-seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the statistical database on the Eurostat website.
3. Eurostat produces harmonised unemployment rates for individual EU Member States, the euro area and the EU. These unemployment rates are based on the definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The measurement is based on a harmonised source, the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS).
Based on the ILO definition, Eurostat defines unemployed persons as persons aged 15 to 74 who:
 - are without work;
 - are available to start work within the next two weeks;
 - and have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.
 The *unemployment rate* is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed plus unemployed.
The numbers of unemployed and the monthly unemployment rates are estimates based on results of the LFS which is a continuous household survey carried out in Member States on the basis of agreed definitions. These results are interpolated/extrapolated to monthly data using national survey data and/or national monthly series on registered unemployment. The most recent figures are therefore provisional; results from the Labour Force Survey are available 90 days after the end of the reference period for most Member States.
Monthly unemployment and employment series are calculated first at the level of four categories for each Member State (males and females 15-24 years, males and females 25-74 years). These series are then seasonally adjusted and all the national and European aggregates are calculated.
Member States may publish other rates such as register based unemployment rates, or rates based on national Labour Force Surveys or corresponding surveys. These rates may vary from those published by Eurostat due to a different definition or methodological choices.
Current deviations from the definition of unemployment in the EU Labour Force Survey:
Spain, Italy and United Kingdom: Unemployment is restricted to persons aged 16-74. In Spain and Italy the legal minimum age for working is 16. Employment data used for Italy includes also those above 74.
4. Compared with the rates published in News Release 81/2012 of 1 June 2012, the April 2012 unemployment rate for the EA17 remains unchanged at 11.0%. The rate for the EU27 has been revised from 10.3% to 10.2%. Among Member States, the rate has been revised by between 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points for Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Greece and France. The rate has been revised downwards by 0.5 percentage points for Slovenia and upwards by 0.6 percentage points for Cyprus. The revisions are primarily caused by the inclusion of the most recent EU Labour Force Survey data in the calculation process and updates to the seasonally adjusted series. In addition, data are slightly revised for Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus and Slovakia due to the inclusion of the latest census results in the weighting of the LFS.
The following LFS data are used in the calculations of the monthly unemployment rates published in this News Release:
For Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania, Finland and Sweden monthly data up to and including May 2012.
For Greece monthly data up to and including March 2012.
For the United Kingdom monthly data up to and including February-March-April 2012 (3-month rolling average).
For Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, France, Spain, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia quarterly data up to and including Q1 2012.
5. Italy has implemented a method to produce monthly unemployment data purely based on the LFS. For the moment, these data should be considered provisional.
6. Estonia and Latvia: quarterly data for all series.
Cyprus, Romania and Slovenia: quarterly data for youth unemployment.
7. For Germany, Austria and Finland the trend component is used instead of the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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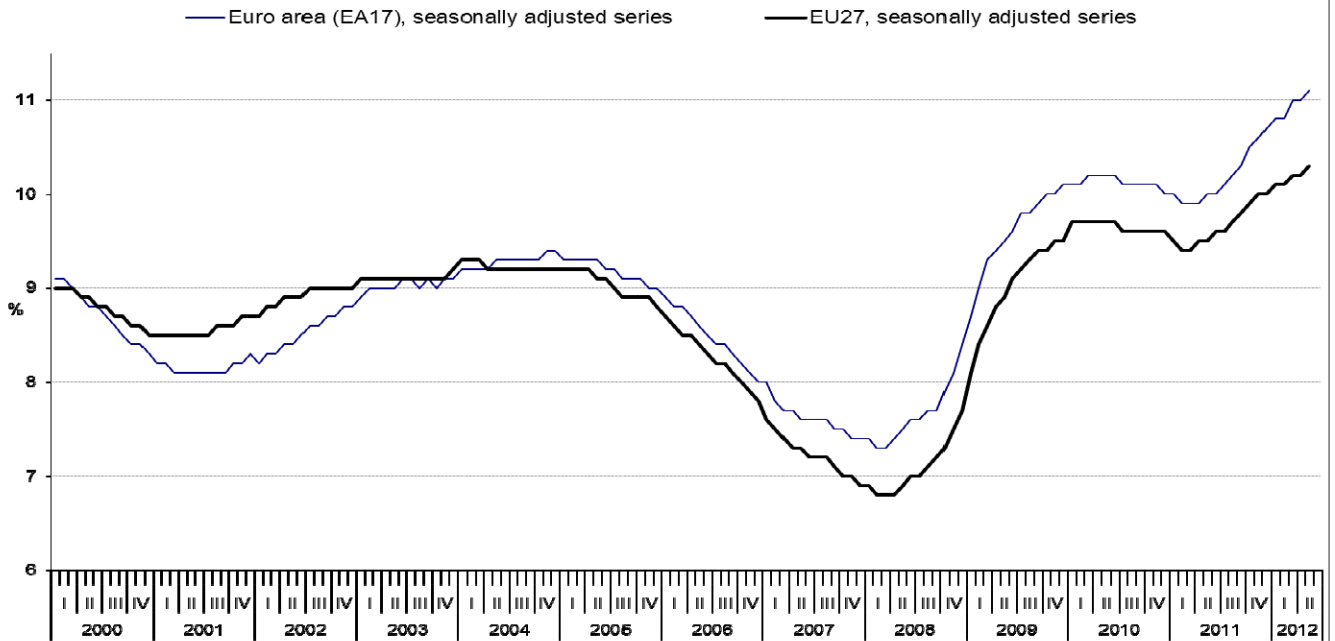
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Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%) TOTALS

	May 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012
EA17	10.0	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.8	11.0	11.0	11.1
EU27	9.5	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.2	10.2	10.3
BE	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2
BG	11.2	11.6	11.8	11.8	12.0	12.1	12.2	12.2
CZ	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7
DK	7.6	7.8	7.7	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8
DE⁷	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
EE⁶	13.1	11.6	11.6	10.9	10.9	10.9	:	:
IE	14.3	14.7	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.6	14.6
EL	16.9	20.6	21.1	21.3	21.4	21.9	:	:
ES	20.9	23.0	23.2	23.5	23.8	24.1	24.3	24.6
FR	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1
IT⁵	8.2	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.8	10.1	10.2	10.1
CY	7.5	9.5	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.7	10.8
LV⁶	17.1	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	:	:
LT	15.7	14.1	13.9	13.7	13.6	13.6	13.8	13.7
LU	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4
HU	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.3	11.1	10.7	10.7	10.9
MT	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.8	6.0
NL	4.2	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.1
AT⁷	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.1
PL	9.6	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
PT	12.7	14.1	14.6	14.7	14.8	15.1	15.2	15.2
RO	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.7
SI	7.9	8.7	8.6	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2
SK	13.4	14.1	14.0	13.8	13.7	13.6	13.6	13.6
FI⁷	7.8	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6
SE	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.8
UK	7.9	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	:	:
IS	7.6	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.0
NO	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.0	:
US	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.2
JP	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.4

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (%)

	Youth (under 25's)				Males				Females			
	May-11	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	May-11	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	May-11	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12
EA17	20.5	22.4	22.4	22.6	9.8	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.3	11.2	11.2	11.3
EU27	21.0	22.6	22.5	22.7	9.5	10.1	10.2	10.3	9.6	10.3	10.3	10.4
BE	19.0	19.5	19.8	20.1	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3
BG	25.1	29.6	29.4	29.2	12.2	13.3	13.5	13.6	10.2	10.7	10.7	10.7
CZ	18.6	19.1	19.7	19.7	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.6	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.0
DK	14.3	15.7	15.3	15.2	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.2	7.7	7.7	7.8
DE ⁷	8.8	8.0	7.9	7.9	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.2	5.2
EE ⁶	22.0	22.2	:	:	13.8	12.0	:	:	12.5	9.7	:	:
IE	29.0	30.1	28.9	28.5	17.4	17.6	17.4	17.4	10.4	11.3	11.2	11.2
EL	42.9	52.1	:	:	14.3	18.9	:	:	20.4	25.8	:	:
ES	45.4	51.2	51.6	52.1	20.6	23.7	23.9	24.2	21.3	24.6	24.8	25.0
FR	23.0	22.9	22.6	22.7	9.1	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.2
IT ⁵	27.5	36.0	35.3	36.2	7.4	9.2	9.4	9.3	9.4	11.3	11.3	11.2
CY ⁶	20.8	25.4	:	:	7.8	11.2	11.5	11.5	7.2	9.5	9.8	10.1
LV ⁶	32.6	28.1	:	:	20.3	16.6	:	:	14.0	14.1	:	:
LT	33.3	29.9	27.3	27.7	18.2	15.1	15.5	15.5	13.1	12.1	12.2	11.9
LU	15.6	19.7	19.4	19.8	3.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.5
HU	25.3	26.1	25.6	26.0	10.9	10.6	10.5	10.7	11.0	10.7	10.9	11.2
MT	13.6	11.9	10.7	11.3	6.9	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.7	6.6	6.3	6.5
NL	6.9	9.3	9.4	9.2	4.4	5.0	5.2	5.2	4.0	5.0	5.1	5.1
AT ⁷	8.4	8.9	8.9	8.3	4.2	3.6	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.0	3.7
PL	25.2	26.1	25.3	24.9	9.0	9.3	9.3	9.4	10.3	10.7	10.6	10.6
PT	29.4	35.8	36.5	36.4	12.4	14.9	15.0	15.0	13.0	15.3	15.4	15.4
RO ⁶	23.4	23.7	:	:	7.8	7.9	8.0	8.4	6.9	6.5	6.6	6.7
SI ⁶	14.5	16.5	:	:	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	8.3	8.5	8.7
SK	33.0	34.5	39.7	38.8	13.6	13.1	13.2	13.1	13.1	14.3	14.2	14.2
FI ⁷	20.2	19.0	18.8	18.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.7
SE	22.8	22.9	22.2	24.6	7.7	7.7	7.5	8.0	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.5
UK	20.4	21.7	:	:	8.5	8.5	:	:	7.2	7.6	:	:
IS	15.3	14.8	14.4	14.1	8.1	6.8	6.6	6.4	7.0	5.9	5.7	5.6
NO	8.0	7.8	8.1	:	3.4	3.6	3.6	:	3.2	2.5	2.4	:
US	17.2	16.4	16.4	16.1	9.5	8.3	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.1	8.0	7.9
JP	:	:	:	:	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.3

: Data not available Source: Eurostat

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED (in millions)

	May 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012
EA17	15.741	16.773	16.862	17.022	17.174	17.357	17.473	17.561
EU27	22.916	24.110	24.196	24.316	24.428	24.588	24.717	24.868
EA17 - youth	3.158	3.328	3.317	3.348	3.360	3.392	3.396	3.412
EU27 - youth	5.235	5.499	5.480	5.475	5.478	5.504	5.487	5.517

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)

